

ROLE OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION IN SHAPING HUMAN PERSONALITY AND SOCIETY

Dheeraj Sharma¹ and Dr. Sonia Ahuja²

1 Research Scholar, Department of Theatre and Music, Lovely Professional University

2 Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Music, Lovely Professional University

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ABSTRACT

Indian culture treats music as a sacred art that has existed since ancient times to create entertainment and help people find spiritual enlightenment and personal growth. The paper investigates education as a fundamental human experience which provides multiple paths for individuals to achieve their educational goals through music. The research demonstrates that music functions as a fine art which produces particular emotional responses in people and living organisms while providing therapeutic advantages and helping students develop their self-control and artistic abilities and emotional stability. The study traces the historical development of music education from its early guru-shishya roots to contemporary institutional models which demonstrate how music education helps students develop into knowledgeable individuals who possess complete understanding of their subjects.

Keywords: Education, Music Education, Human Development, Fine Arts, Indian Music, Guru-Shishya Tradition, Music Therapy

Introduction

Education forms the essential base which enables people to develop all aspects of their character through intellectual development and moral growth and cultural understanding and social interaction. Education helps people to develop their natural skills while creating their ability to think critically and make valuable contributions to the community. Music education exists as an educational field which provides students with emotional and aesthetic and spiritual growth. Indian culture considers music to be a sacred form of art which people use to express themselves and show their devotion and work toward personal growth. Music has maintained a deep connection with human existence and cultural practices and spiritual beliefs since ancient times. Music goes beyond its role as entertainment to provide essential benefits which help people improve their ability to focus and create and follow rules and maintain emotional stability and develop their entire personality.

The paper investigates how education serves as a fundamental need for human existence while showing how music functions as a crucial part of complete educational programs and human growth.

Purpose of education in life

From birth, all animals possess specific instincts, guided by which they perform their tasks. However, even though all the actions of animals are based on their instincts, they lack the ability to think and reason, and hence cannot change them. This is why animals lack cultural development. Humans also possess specific instincts from birth, but instead of acting under their control like animals, they use thinking and reasoning to modify them as needed, creating changes that are beneficial to themselves and society. This is why culture is found in humans. It is worth noting that education is the only thing that helps bring about change in these instincts. Education is a comprehensive activity, which all creatures in the world receive, to varying degrees, from birth to death. The entire world is a great school; every person, young and old, men and women, are both learners and teachers. By receiving education, a person achieves proper personality development.

Education is the foundation of a human being's all-round progress and the driving force behind personality development. By refining a child's inherent, innate powers, eliminating flaws, and polishing internal qualities, education shapes their character. This personality proves beneficial not only for the individual but also for society, culture, the country, and ultimately the entire nation and the world. Therefore, education leads to holistic development by integrating transcendental elements into an individual's personality, transforming them into a civilised, cultured, capable, and compassionate person.

This education creates qualified workers, administrators, teachers, doctors, engineers, artists, and the like, who constitute our human capital. Among the various aspects of life that education provides, livelihoods, sports, arts, culture, science, agriculture, transportation, business, society, politics, and administration are considered key.

Education mirrors society. The educational system can only be judged by observing society. General education is crucial for mental development, while fine arts education is crucial for the refinement of mental and spiritual powers. Only through these

two types of education can a person become imbued with the skills of contemplation, logic, and problem-solving, and become familiar with the deepest ideals of life's vision and values, proving to be a useful entity for themselves and society.

From the perspective of musical art

Music is a hypnotic art. In other words, 'music' is a beautiful, overflowing rhythm of life. It is a feeling of spontaneous joy, where one forgets everything and reaches a state of spontaneous bliss. Music is the process of becoming one, the feeling of immersion, and the sound waves of exclusive devotion that captivate the general public. Perhaps inspired by this very fact, our sages and saints have proven this refined and pure art to be a means of union between God and soul, making spiritual attainment and attainment possible. That is why great devotees like Nanak, Kabir, Raidas, Sur, Meera, Tulsi, etc., wove their devotional sentiments into the melodious sound waves of music and engrossed themselves in it.

Music itself is a source of bliss, and the experience of the supreme (Parmanubhuti) is the ultimate pinnacle of that aesthetic delight (Rasa). Through deep reverence, devotional practice, the blessings of a realized Guru, and one's own dedicated efforts, this experience of bliss gradually matures, ultimately leading to the attainment of supreme realization.

In 'Sangit Ratnakar', two types of music are described: 'Maghan Sangeet' and 'Desi Sangeet'. The music performed by Brahma and other gods and sages like Bharata before Mahadev was called 'Maghan Sangeet' and the music propagated in different countries based on seasons and according to public taste was called 'Desi Sangeet'. 'Maghan Sangeet' is considered for heaven and 'Desi Sangeet' for the entertainment of this earth. It is noteworthy that Magahan music is associated with religion and spiritual development, while folk music is associated with mental entertainment. The rules of Magahan music are unchanging, while those of folk music change from time to time.

In "Sangit Ratnakar," sound is described as the embodiment of Shiva. This is where the concept of "Naada Brahma" begins its development. In "Sangeet Ratnakar," the creation cycle explains in detail how the universe evolved from "Naada Brahma."

At the core of Shiva, Brahma, Saraswati, Ganesha, Krishna, Narada, Gandharva and Kinnar, whom we have always considered the original inspirations of our musical art, is the belief that the art of music originated from divine inspiration. Although music is natural for humans, yet as an art form it must have come from divine inspiration, hence it is considered extremely sacred. Our sages and acharyas believe that the letters and notes originated from Shankar's

Damaru, and the rhythm is also believed to have originated from Shankar's Damaru. Lord Shankar's powers, Parvati, Shiva Durga, are also considered the inspirations of music.

Brahma has also always been remembered as the inspiration of music. At the core of Brahma is the word or sound. Therefore, it is entirely appropriate to consider them as the inspiration of music. Those who adopted the art of music in the heavenly realm came to be called Gandharvas. In the Ramayana, Lord Ramchandra's son 'Luv Kush' was called 'Gandharva'. An expert in tone, rhythm, song, art, and volume is called Gandharava. Perhaps due to this religious spiritual background, the names of the sages like Narada, Valmiki, Tumburu, Yajnavalkya, Bharata, Mantaga etc. come in the category of sages among the practitioners of Indian music. Saints like Vallabhacharya, Surdas, Kabir, Meera, Tulsidas, Swami Haridas, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu etc. had a close relationship with music. For the Vaishnava sect the basis of devotion was music.

Place of music among the fine arts

According to Indian culture, sixty-four arts have been recognized, under which the art of cooking and the art of smuggling are also counted. Fine arts hold a special place among all these arts. Not all arts can be fine arts. In art, utility is taken into consideration after skill. There is no condition of utility in fine arts. Emotional expression whose main aim is to attain pure pleasure will be called fine art. In other words, we can say that 'whatever gives happiness without utility, that is beauty. It is inherent in fine arts. That is why music is considered the best among fine arts.

While the pillars of poetry are language and emotion, and of painting are line and color, the two pillars of music are tone and rhythm. The very foundation of music is extremely subtle, abstract, and dynamic. Music is primarily an aural art. There is nothing visual in music. The artwork created by an artist has no direct connection to the familiar world. Even though the singer or musician may appear to be seated, the sound waves they produce change every moment according to the season. Simply by listening, one can experience the shape of the notes and the movement of the rhythm.

Influence of music

In today's scientific age, music is being used extensively in many fields, considering its impact on plants, humans, and animals. Munshi Premchand described the impact of music in such simple and beautiful words: When mental agony becomes unbearable and immense, it finds no solace anywhere, and when it finds no refuge even in the lap of weeping and wailing, it falls at the feet of music. Music has been associated with humans since birth. When a child is born, auspicious songs are sung.

Thereafter, on occasions like the sacred thread ceremony, naming ceremony, tonsure ceremony, marriage, etc., good wishes are expressed through music.

Therefore, we can say that from birth to death, human life is filled with music. In the joy of birth, all men, women, young and old start singing with joy. Mothers sing melodious lullabies while putting their children to sleep. Many religious rituals are performed with the sound of chanting mantras. The time of marriage is filled with the sweet sound of Shehnai. Prayers to God are sung in soothing tones in temples and churches. Music is associated with every stage of life - sorrow, weeping, shock, union, separation and death. Music also has an impact on animals and birds. Even in modern times, music is used to hunt beetles. The deer becomes so captivated by the sound that it sacrifices itself.

Numerous experiments have been conducted and are being conducted on the plant kingdom using music. Dr. T.C.N. Singh, Head of the Botany Department at Annamalai University, Madras, demonstrated through experiments that music contributes to increased food production. He conducted this experiment publicly on agricultural farms in Madras and Puducherry, and it was more successful than expected. In addition to rice plants, experiments have been conducted on pea, chickpea, mustard, and beans, and it has been concluded that the sound of music also affects plant respiration.

There are numerous references to music as a cure for illness in ancient and medieval times. In ancient times, when kings were very tired or returned from battle, they would listen to the "Darbari-Kanhra" raga to relieve their fatigue. Listening to this raga not only relieved their fatigue but also helped them sleep better. Even today, music is used to treat ailments like heart disease, brain problems, insomnia, stress, paralysis, high blood pressure, headaches, and fever. Music has also proven effective in improving memory.

Music in Education

Music has been an important part of Indian education since ancient times. Under which imagination, understanding, balance, naturalness, self-expression, self-control, speed, exercise and many other qualities are included in the subject of music. In other words, music education develops the body, intellect, guidance of emotions, training of will, lessons of tolerance, the ability to perform, and the strong desire to achieve objectives. Music education fosters the power of concentration and self-control in students. The flow of vocal music is directly related to the long breathing process, instrumental music to the movement of specific body parts, and dance to the movement of body parts and expressions. However, for emotional expression, all three require the student's individual talent and artistic skill. Because the coordination of physical and mental tendencies matures emotional and creative activity, providing the opportunity for self-expression.

From a very broad perspective, music is the fundamental foundation of human life. Sound, rhythm, and movement, the hallmarks of conscious life, are the essential components of music. The fundamental elements of music are the driving forces of human life. From ancient times to the medieval period, music education was primarily imparted through the guru-disciple tradition. From here, music education evolved through the "gharana" system. In modern times, music education is imparted in schools, colleges, and universities.

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